

requested entry of new claims 40-55. If the new claims are entered, claims 1 and 40-55 would be under consideration. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, applicants respectfully request that new claims 40-55 be entered and submit that new claims 40-55 should be allowable.

In a telephone conference on January 18, 2001, between Examiner Helen Pratt and applicants' undersigned attorney, Examiner Pratt indicated that if applicants submitted an Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 which added new claims and if such claims only limited the scope of the allowed claim and only broke out the elements of the Markush groups of the allowed claim into individual dependent claims, such an amendment would likely be entered. Applicants submit that claims 40-55 set forth above in the present Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 meet the criteria set out by Examiner Pratt.

Claim 1 recites two elements: (i) a natural isomer of reduced folate; and (ii) a nutritional substance. Each of these elements is set forth as a Markush grouping in claim 1. Each of claims 40 and 48 depend from claim 1 and further limit the subject matter of claim 1 to one of the nutritional substances set forth in the nutritional substance Markush group in claim 1. Each of claims 41-47 and 49-55 depend (indirectly) from claim 1 and further limit the subject matter of claim 1 to one of the nutritional substances set forth in the nutritional substance Markush group of claim 1 and to one of the reduced folates set forth in the reduced folate Markush group of claim 1. Since claim 1 has been allowed; since claims 40-55 depend from and further limit the subject matter of allowed claim 1; and since claims 40-55 are fully supported by the disclosure set forth in allowed claim 1, applicants submit that new claims 40-55 are also allowable.

Applicants acknowledge that the December 15, 2000, Notice of Allowability changes the title of the present

application to "FOOD AND VITAMIN PREPARATIONS CONTAINING THE NATURAL ISOMER OF REDUCED FOLATES".

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that new claims 40-55 are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain which can usefully be discussed by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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